

Remarks

The application is after final and claims 1-3, 6 and 7 remain pending and stand rejected. Also accompanying this response is a Request for Continued Examination.

Claim 1 is directed to a handwriting recognition input system that in part requires “a single handwriting input area; and a plurality of activatable controls each being associated with a different reference library, and each configured to recognizing characters input on said handwriting input area as belonging to said associated reference library.” For example, as shown in Fig. 1 of the instant application:

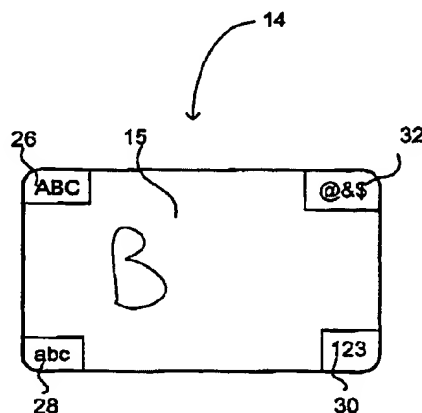
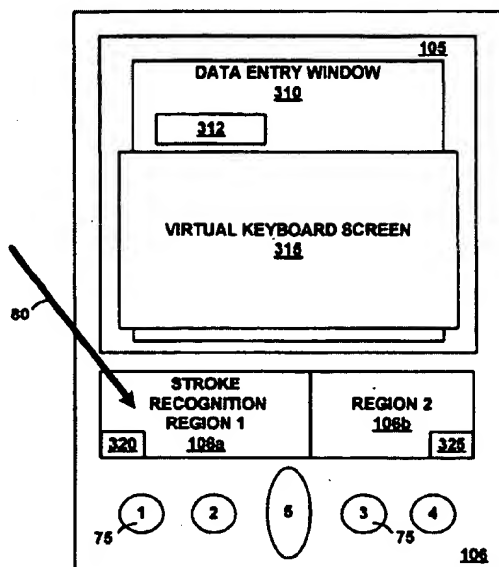


Fig.1

A single handwriting input area 15 is surrounded by a plurality of activatable controls 26, 28, 30, and 32, each being associated with a different reference library, specifically, upper-case letters, lower-case letters, numerals, and special characters respectively. Each of these character set controls is configured so that when selected by the user, characters input on the handwriting input area 15 are recognized as belonging to the reference library associated with the selected control. This is not suggested by the prior art.

For example, the most recent Office action cites to an earlier patent to Skinner and posits that in Figs. 2, 6 and 7 and at col. 7, l. 41-col. 8, l. 6:



But Skinner does not describe any of the display screen 105, data entry window 310, or virtual keyboard screen 315 as able to accept handwriting. Thus, none of these areas can be viewed as corresponding to the single handwriting input area required by claim 1. Rather, the functionality of recognizing handwriting characters in Skinner is described as “importantly” reserved for the handwriting recognition regions 106a and 106b. Col. 6, ll. 30-32. The Examiner concedes that Skinner does not teach the arrangement presently claimed, but rather says that it “would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the two handwriting areas taught by Skinner by having a single handwriting input area.”

But if Skinner were modified to combine the two handwriting recognition regions 106a and 106b into a single region, the result still would not correspond to what claim 1 requires. Such an arrangement would not have “a plurality of activatable controls each being associated with a different reference library” so that when a given control is selected, characters input to the

handwriting input area would be recognized as corresponding to the reference library associated with the selected control.

Skinner does not teach or suggest separate controls to recognize different kinds of input characters to a single handwriting input area, but rather associates different such characters with different areas or locations of the handwriting input. That is, inputs on the left side are recognized as letters and inputs on the right side are recognized as numerals. Col. 5, ll. 32-35. That is not what claim 1 requires. Nor would one of skill in the art think to alter Skinner's principle of operation to change its operation from location-based reference library selection to using multiple activatable controls to select between reference libraries. See MPEP §2143.01 ("THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION CANNOT CHANGE THE PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION OF A REFERENCE.").

Thus claim 1 is not obvious from, but rather patentable over Skinner. Adding Wecker as suggested does not change this analysis. Wecker teaches no more than a single handwriting input area (42 in Fig. 4) and provides no suggestion of a plurality of activatable controls as claimed which for selection of associated reference libraries as explained above. Thus, claim 1 is also patentable over a combination of Skinner and Wecker.

Claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

It is submitted that all the pending claims are now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested. It is believed that a two month extension of time is required for this matter. Applicant

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hereby petitions for same and requests that any extension or other fee required for timely consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4972. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if any matters remain outstanding so that they may be resolved expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Sandvos", is written over a horizontal line.

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